

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 COME-00 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 101222Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5852

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF SCHEDULED DC NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

REF: ROME 8785

1. AN IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12-15, HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 18. THE REASON FOR THIS POSTPONEMENT, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE DC SOURCE, IS THAT FANFANI IS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN PUTTING TOGETHER AN ACCORD WHICH WILL AVOID A FORMAL DIVISION INTO LEFT WING MINORITY (INCLUDING THE FORZE NUOVE, BASE AND MOROTEO FACTIONS) AND CENTER-RIGHT MAJORITY GROUPINGS WITHIN THE PARTY.

2. MANY POLITICAL OBSERVERS AND EMBASSY CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT THE LEADERS OF ALL DC FACTIONS EXCEPT THE LEFT-WING FORZE NUOVE AND BASE GROUPS ARE NOW INCLINED TO REACH AN INTERIM COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD LEAVE FANFANI IN PLACE AS PARTY SECRETARY. THE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE BASED ON THE CREATION OF A "POLITICAL OFFICE" OR "DIRECTOIRE" POLICY-MAKING BODY ON WHICH THE TOP LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS PARTY FACTIONS WOULD EACH HAVE A SEAT. THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD REPRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSION BY FANFANI TO THE PARTY LEFT WING. AS ONE OBSERVER PUT IT, FORZE NUOVE LEADER DONAT CATTIN (FORMALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE DC SECRETARIAT ON JUNE 25) WOULD THUS BE WELCOMED BACK IN TO THE PARTY LEADERSHIP THROUGH  
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THE FRONT DOOR AFTER HAVING ONLY RECENTLY BEEN PUSHED OUT BY

THE WINDOW. THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS ACCORD TO AT LEAST TEMPORARILY RESTORE A SEMBLANCE OF PARTY UNITY WOULD BE THAT IT WOULD AVOID AN INTRA-PARTY CRISIS WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE FRAGILE BASIS OF DC COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIALISTS AND FURTHER ANTAGONIZE THE LABOR UNIONS AT A MOMENT OF GRAVE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

3. COMMENT: THE ATTITUDE OF THE PARTY LEFT WILL ADOPT AT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IS STILL UNCERTAIN. BOTH THE FORZE NUOVE AND BASE FACTIONS ARE THEMSELVES DIVIDED INTO MODERATE AND LEFT WING GROUPINGS, WHILE MORO IS BELIEVED TO BE ACTIVELY SEEKING AN INTERMIM ACCORD. HOWEVER, EVEN IF BASIC POLICY DISPUTES ARE TEMPORARILY PAPERED OVER AT THE JULY 18 MEETING, THEY ARE CERTAIN TO FLARE UP AGAIN AFTER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND MAY CONCIDE AT THAT TIME WITH A WIDELY PREDICTED GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE OR CRISIS. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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